

airworthiness and the aging fleet modifications are also complied with. However, Indian Airlines plans to take over the B737 routes with the induction of new A319/A320 aircraft in a phased manner.

Irregularity of IC-402 from Kolkata to Delhi

739. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that flight IC-402 from Kolkata to Delhi is regularly irregular;
- (b) if so, whether Government are also aware that passengers are harassed for four to five hours; and
- (c) the steps Government are taking to maintain flight schedules in order to free passenger from harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All technical delays and cancellations are investigated to identify cause and remedial action is taken immediately. A meeting of the representatives of operating departments at the Regional level is held every day to review previous 24 hours operations. Engineering delays and cancellations are dealt with promptly. At the base station, delays and cancellations are analyzed to identify repetitive nature of snag. In case a repetitive snag is detected, special maintenance action is immediately taken to ensure that the snag does not persist. At the Headquarters level, the punctuality of services is monitored on a daily basis. Airlines are advised to look after passengers for delays/cancellations as per well laid down guidelines.

Setting up of new airports

740. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have announced the setting up of new airports in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted therefor in each States;

- (c) the present status and aim of such airports;
- (d) the present status of upgradation of Visakhapatnam and Rajahmundry airports; and
- (e) the present status of new airport at Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At present, new airports are being promoted by the concerned State Governments on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis. 'In-principle' approval have been given for international standard airports at Mopa (Goa), Devanhali near Bangalore, Shamshabad near Hyderabad. Proposals have been received from the concerned State Governments for new Greenfield airports at Pakyong (Sikkim), Chieithu near Kohima (Nagaland), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Kannur (Kerala), and Chakken (Rajgurunagar) near Pune and Navi Mumbai near Panvel (Maharashtra).

There are well laid down procedures for development of greenfield airports and the above proposals have to conform to the prescribed conditions before being considered for final approval.

(d) At Visakhapatnam airport, associated works related to commissioning of new runway and new apron are near completion and the new runway is expected to be operationalised by March 2007. Construction of a new integrated passenger terminal building is going on as per schedule and is likely to be completed by December 2007.

For development of Rajahmundry airport, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and State Government on 14.02.2007.

(e) Works at new Hyderabad airport is going on as per schedule.

Replacement of Airbus by Boeing Aircrafts for Gulf Sector

741. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is planning to introduce Boeing aircrafts replacing the wide bodied Airbus aircrafts for the services to Gulf countries from Thiruvananthapuram airports;